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## Identity Crisis

by Daina Doucet

On a recent reply card to a mailing by our Stewardship Department, a Redeemer College member recently wrote, "I have difficulty with you calling yourselves what you are not, i.e. a university. I see this as false advertising." She had checked the box that read, "I have decided not to renew my membership."

The incident caused me to realize that our supporting community has been receiving information relating to our status as an institution of higher learning in bits and pieces, and never in the form of an overview of achievements and concerns. For those of us who work at the university (College), the bits and pieces fit together into a greater overall picture. It is this that we need to convey to our supporters.

In the 1987-88 Report of Parliament on Post-secondary Education in Canada (1), the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada submits that, "Within the post-secondary education level, programs are offered by two distinct categories of institutions: universities and college-level institutions. The university category includes all public or private degree-granting institutions and their affiliates... The college-level category includes all public or private institutions that deliver post-secondary education programs without granting degrees. This category includes community colleges, teachers' colleges, and regional and hospital nursing schools."

Federal standards however, differ from provincial ones. If you do as our member did and use Ontario standards for describing this institution, then you could conclude that Redeemer College is not a university. The Ontario government generally has not allowed an institution which does not offer graduate programs to call itself a university. Any degree granting undergraduate institution must be called a college in Ontario, with only a few exceptions all of which use the word 'college' in conjunction with the word 'university' in their names.

Popular usage of the word 'college' again differs from both of these definitions. Colloquially it refers to any private elementary or secondary school, a community trade school, or a Bible and missions training centre. None of these institutions have government permission to grant bachelor's degrees. Only universities have that right.

And by law, so does Redeemer College.

This discrepancy has been the source of a dilemma for Redeemer College for some time. On the one hand it must not call itself a university because it is an undergraduate institution, and on the other, it is continually receiving academic recognition for its undergraduate degree granting programs.

Recognition began in October 1987 when the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) accepted Redeemer College as a member, 'on par' with all other university-level institutions in Canada. Subsequently the university's administration sought legal counsel on whether or not to

approach the government for a name change from 'college' to 'university'. The advice of counsel was, that based on AUCC membership, and from the point of view of Canada's academic community, Redeemer College was now to be regarded as a university, and that Redeemer College could now legally call itself a university, with a small 'u', in its communications and advertising. The only place where Redeemer College could not call itself a university was in its name: for example, 'Redeemer University'. The name 'Redeemer College', with the qualifying phrase, 'A Christian university' was acceptable.

Since its acceptance into the AUCC, Redeemer College is being recognized as an undergraduate university from various sectors of government.

Dr. Sandra Beckett's application for a grant from SSHRCC in connection with her sabbatical research was accepted. She is the first faculty member whose proposal has been approved for funding under the government's General Research Program. This grant is available only to universities.

SSHRCC also provides a program whereby Ontario universities can submit the total of their privately funded research for the preceding year and be eligible for up to 20% return. Redeemer College submitted the 7th largest budget, all of which was approved.

This is the first year Redeemer College was empowered to grant the Governor General's Silver Medal which is awarded to the student who graduates with the highest

academic standing at his or her university. The community college level is recognized with a bronze medal.

Redeemer College is also part of the Canada Scholarship Program which is only available to universities.

Because Redeemer College is in the unique situation where its name does not clearly depict the type of education it offers, the university administration has concluded that it may be helpful to use the word 'university' rather than 'college' wherever reference is made to 'the College' in a descriptive phrase apart from its name. This decision was based on continual feedback from the outside community.

For example, in most cases Reformed audiences have understood the thrust of Redeemer's educational focus. Few have felt that it has been representing itself falsely.

The audiences among whom the name has failed to communicate the most, are the evangelical, mainline and secular audiences. This lack of understanding about Redeemer College based on its name has been especially apparent in our recruitment efforts, and in our

relationships with the Ancaster and Hamilton communities. People from evangelical churches feel that Redeemer College is a Reformed Bible college, and Hamilton residents think it is either a monastery of sorts, or an elementary or secondary school.

Consistent reference to Redeemer College as a university, will help to dispel these misconceptions until such a time when a name change can be implemented. A name change would permit Redeemer College to add the word 'university' to its name, but not to drop the word 'College'.

There are several AUCC member institutions that have been granted permission to do just that. All of them, like Redeemer College, are undergraduate, degree-granting institutions: 'University of St. Jerome's College', 'College Universitaire de Saint-Boniface', and 'University College of Cape Breton'. Redeemer could therefore be called 'University of Redeemer College', or 'Redeemer University College'.

Until that happens, Redeemer College will continue to face the daily challenge of explaining to its audiences how it is not a college, but a university, and currently an aberration in the provincial government's system of nomenclature.

(1) Published by the Ministry of Supply and Services, Canada, ISBN 0-662-56592-4. p 86-87.

### Plugers Twins

## Taken Home

On April 21, 1986 Tammy Plugers (Boer) '82 and her husband Ken were blessed with the birth of twin boys Nathan and Jordan. Shortly afterward, the boys were diagnosed as having a very rare blood disorder called Histiocytosis X. Many of us have been praying for the Plugers family, but now Ken and Tammy need our support and prayers even more.

Since the last issue of Images, both the twins went home to be with the Lord. Nathan, the oldest, passed away on June 22nd and Jordan passed away exactly three months later on September 22nd.

In this time of sorrow it is our prayer that the Lord be with Tammy and Ken and their families and give them much strength for the difficult times ahead.

The Histiocytosis X Association of America is administered in Canada by Tammy. Donations to the Association would be appreciated. Please send your gifts, cards, or letters to Ken and Tammy Plugers, Box 164 Jordan Station, ON L0R 1S0.

## Composite Pictures Available

Recently, Redeemer College has had composite photographs made of the 1986, 1987 and 1988 graduating classes so that every class could be represented on the Boardroom wall. Members of these classes interested in obtaining a photo of their class can purchase one for \$15 from the university. If you are interested, please contact the university at (416) 648-2131 or Willard VanderPloeg at (519) 371-7501.

## IMAGES

is the newsletter of the Redeemer College Alumni Association. It is designed to be a source of information for all former students and graduates of Redeemer College.

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Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3N6

## The Editor's Workbench

Greetings fellow Alumni!

It's been five long months since the last issue of Images reached your door, so needless to say, a lot has happened since then.

This past summer, my wife and I decided to purchase an apartment house in Owen Sound, where I grew up. I ended my full-time employment with Redeemer at the end of August and am now a salesman for Stairland, a company which makes and installs custom stairs and railings.

What's going to happen to the Association you ask? Well, it should continue developing just as it has for the past three years.

No one but Redeemer College Alumni should run our Association, so I have agreed to continue working on the Association until another graduate is hired in a related full-time position.

Structurally, things will continue on in just about the same way. All

database records will be kept and maintained at the university, and Alumni Board meetings will continue to be held there. The newsletter and other mailings will be designed and produced in Owen Sound and then forwarded to Ancaster for mailing. In this situation, *it's even more important that you continue to send your changes of address and other news to the university. The distance makes it much harder for me to track you.*

An exciting possibility for this year is an Alumni vs Royals hockey game. At a recent Board meeting, we discussed the possibility of hosting such an event. If enough Alumni players can be found, the game will likely take place next spring and will involve lots of time for socializing.

Send us your ideas and watch for future announcements. Potential players, contact Mike Hoekstra (416) 388-6076 or me (519) 371-7501 as soon as possible.

Willard.

## From the President

It has been quite some time since I have addressed you through Images, our Alumni newsletter. Our Vice-President, Dr. Cooper does much of that. But I thought I would take a few moments to express an overdue word of thanks to our four graduating classes.

Each year during Graduation ceremonies, the university has been privileged to receive a gift from the graduating class. I've listed them for the benefit of other Alumni.

### Class of 1986

-painting of Bell Cairn School

### Class of 1987

- campus flagpole

### Class of 1988

- alpha and omega symbols

### Class of 1989

- two park benches

At the university, we treasure each of these gifts because they serve as a constant reminder of the people behind them and the growth they experienced in their lives during their studies here.

For many of us, they are a tremendous source of strength. We see what God has done here and gather strength to go forward.

So, it is not the gifts themselves, but the essence of them which makes each so special to us. As you return to campus and see them again, I hope that you too will remember the blessings God bestowed upon you.

Henry R. DeBolster, President

## Bordertown Cafe

by Daina Doucet

In a small, family-run roadside cafe precariously perched on the Alberta/Montana border, a young man faces the most important decision of his life. Caught between his American truck driving father and his Canadian mother, Jimmy, the leading character in Kelly Rebar's play, 'Bordertown Cafe', must decide where he wants to live, and who he is.

'Bordertown Cafe', a Canadian play about American/Canadian tensions, was performed at Redeemer College on November 2, 3, and 4 by the Redeemer College Theatre Arts Department.

Director, John Van Dyke, who discovered the play while working on his MA degree at the Guelph University says, "I think in this time of free trade issues and questions concerning Canadian identity and encroaching American culture, the issue depicted in this play is an important one."

The play was presented from a humorous, human, and touching point of view which also depicted the internal politics of the family in its search for individual identity. "It could be appreciated by anyone of high school age and up," added Mr. Van Dyke.

A free reception was held prior to each performance to give theatre goers an opportunity to discuss the play with members of the Theatre Arts Department.

# The Personal Touch

Catherine Deelstra (Mellema) '83 and her husband Herb would like to announce the birth of their first child, Gregory Luke in March, 1989. Catherine currently works as a registered nurse at Sarnia General Hospital.

Susan VanArragon '83 sends greetings to all Alumni from France where she has been for the past year studying French. You can correspond with her at: 1242 Garth St. Hamilton, ON L9C 4L7.

Wilma Beintema '84 wrote to tell us that in August she began work as a volunteer teacher with the Mississippi Family Christian Services. She prepares children for elementary school in the Centre's pre-school.

Fran Voortman '84 married Sam Buma in August, 1988 and is currently employed as a Caseworker with the Big Sister Association of Hamilton.

Mike Eygenraam '85 graduated from Mohawk College in 1988 with a diploma in Electronics Engineering. He now works for Ontario Hydro as a Research Technologist.

Paul DeJong '85 graduated from Calvin College this past spring and now works for the Christian Labour Association of Canada as the Alberta Representative.

Dan Mack '85 married Elaine Smid in May, 1987. He is currently working as Assistant Manager at the Pine Portage Lodge near Thunder Bay. Write him at 359 Dacre St. Thunder Bay, ON P7A 1K8.

Frank Wielinga '86 began working at Falgarbrook Farms as a Dairy Herd Manager after graduating from the University of Guelph this past spring. His address is: R.R. 2 Georgetown, ON L7G 4S5.

Christine DeJong (Duimering) '86 is now attending McMaster University Medical School in Hamilton. Her husband, Michael, '87, is a residential housing contractor in Burlington.

Harvey VanderMeer '86 wrote to say that he and wife Cathy received their second child, Maaike this past spring. Currently, Harvey is teaching grade 6 in Jarvis, Ontario.

Telford Matthew '86 graduated from Asbury Seminary in Kentucky on May 21 with a Masters of Theology. He began work this September as a Minister in the Methodist Church in the Dominican Republic.

Walter VanderWerf '86 and his wife Ellen '86 are currently in Barrie where Walt is completing his internship to become a Christian Reformed pastor. Their address is R.R. 1 Stroud, ON L0L 2M0.

Mark and Sylvia Bandstra '87 moved to Orillia at the end of June. Sylvia is teaching grade 2 at Orillia Christian School and Mark is Project

Coordinator for Nor-weld. Their new address is 3 - 342 McIsaac Dr. Orillia, ON L3V 1E8.

Ernie Langendoen '87 married Elizabeth Doerr on June 24th. He received his Master's of Missions from Calvin Seminary and is currently in Costa Rica for language training. Ernie and his wife plan to become missionaries in Central America.

Harry and Sheila Kooy '88 have both graduated from Calvin College this past year. Harry is currently teaching Biology at Woodland Christian High School in Breslau, Ontario.

John Noordhof '89 says he is no longer a permanent fixture at Redeemer College. After completing his first summer assignment in Waterloo, John is now at Calvin Seminary in his second year. His address is: 842 Hall St. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

## News of Interest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

News of interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
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